

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP: MDI(KMAN:B F

8/7/73 EXT 22647

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

EB/ORF/FSE:FMAU

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R 080031Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 156106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SATC

SUBJ: SAG PROTEST RE ABU DHABI OIL ACTIVITIES

REF: ABU DHABI 1096, JIDDA 3343

1. WHILE DEPARTMENT REGRETS THAT SAUDIS HAVE SENT WARNING TO ABU DHABI ABOUT DRILLING IN ASAB FIELD, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MATTER MUST BE RESOLVED BETWEEN SAUDIS AND UAE. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE NEED TO MOVE TOWARD RESOLUTION OF LONG-STANDING SAUDI-ABU DHABI BORDER DISPUTE, WE WOULD INJECT OURSELVES DIRECTLY IN DISPUTE WERE WE TO TAKE UP SAUDI LETTER TO ABU DHABI WITH SAG. ABU DHABI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA HAS IN PAST HAD PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM YAMANI AND IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT THIS WOULD BE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH SAUDI ARABIA

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AND ABU DHABI COULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

2. WHILE WE UNABLE LOCATE EXACT LIMITS OF ASAB FIELD, IT
IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT IT MAY EXTEND DOWN TO NO-DRILL ZONE
LYING 15 MINUTES NORTH OF 23RD PARALLEL IN WHICH SAUDIS
CLAIM NO OIL OPERATIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE UNDER JUNE 29,
1954 ARBITRATION AGREEMENT. IF FIELD EXTENDS DOWN TO THIS
ZONE, THIS MAY EXPLAIN REASON FOR SAUDI LETTER. ROGERS

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